

Statistics for December and 2012 – is the UK getting wetter?

Description

Provisional statistics from the Met Office show 2012 was the second wettest year in the UK national record dating back to 1910, and just a few millimetres short of the record set in 2000.

The exceptionally wet year was characterised by a dry start which quickly gave way to very wet weather, with April and June both being the wettest on record.

Unsettled weather continued through to the end of the year, with December being the 8th wettest on record for the UK.

Throughout the year, [accurate forecasts and warnings from the Met Office](#) have helped everyone across the UK plan and prepare for the worst impacts of the extremely wet weather we have seen.

The persistent wet weather resulted in total 2012 rainfall for the UK of 1330.7 mm, which is just 6.6 mm short of the record set in 2000.

Looking at individual countries, 2012 was the wettest year on record for England, third wettest for Wales, 17th wettest for Scotland and 40th wettest for Northern Ireland.

This adds to a high frequency of wet years since 2000 in the UK – with four of the top five wettest years occurring since then.

Top five wettest years in the UK

1. 2000 – 1337.3mm
2. 2012 – 1330.7mm
3. 1954 – 1309.1 mm
4. 2008 – 1295.0mm
5. 2002 – 1283.7mm

We have always seen a great deal of variability in UK rainfall because our weather patterns are constantly changing. However, preliminary evidence suggests we are getting slightly more rain in total and it may be falling in more intense bursts.

Looking at annual rainfall for the UK, we can see the country as a whole getting wetter in recent decades.

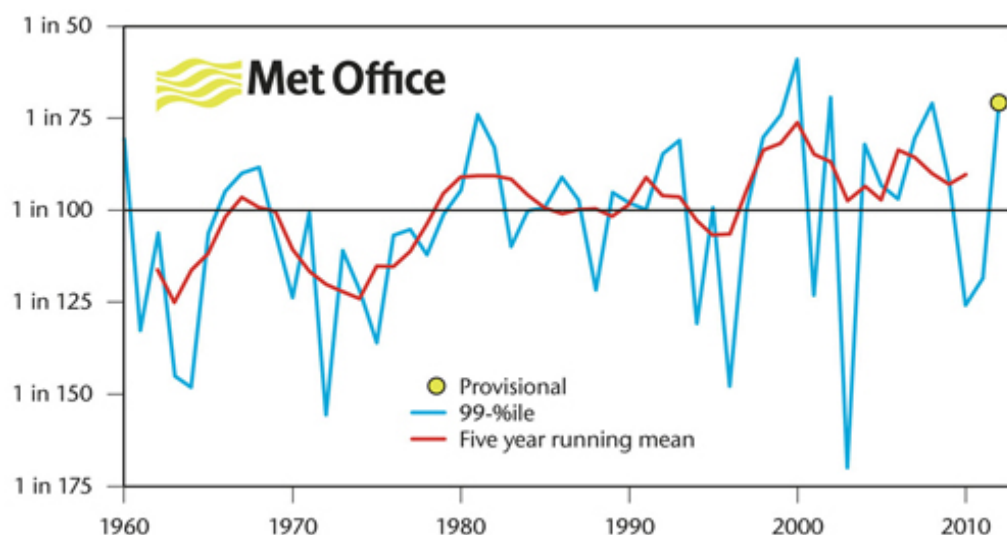
Long-term averages of 30-year periods show an increase in annual rainfall of about 5% from 1961-1990 to 1981-2010:

Annual average UK rainfall according to 30-year averages

1961-1990: 1100.6mm
1971-2000: 1126.1mm
1981-2010: 1154.0mm

Preliminary research from the Met Office also suggests we may have seen a change in the nature of the rain we get, with 'extreme' rainfall becoming more frequent.

An analysis of 1 in 100 day rainfall events since 1960 indicates these 'extreme' days of rainfall may have become more frequent over time.



The above graphic shows the frequency of what climate averages tell us should be roughly 1 in 100 day heavy rainfall events in each year. Over time, this gives a view of the frequency of 'extreme' rainfall.

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2012 Provisional stats

	Mean temperature (°C)		Sunshine duration (Hours)		Precipitation (mm)	
	Actual	Difference from 1981-2010 average	Actual	% of 1981-2010 average	Actual	% of 1981-2010 average
Regions						
UK	8.8	-0.1	1356.4	99	1330.7	115
England	9.6	-0.1	1470.2	98	1123.2	131
Wales	9.1	0	1355.7	97	1716.2	118
Scotland	7.3	-0.1	1187.6	100	1602.6	102
N Ireland	8.9	0	1239.1	99	1153.7	102
England & Wales	9.5	-0.1	1454.4	98	1205	128
England N	8.8	-0.1	1360	99	1288.1	133
England S	10	-0.1	1528.5	98	1036	130
Districts						
Scotland N	6.9	-0.2	1124.9	104	1599.5	93
Scotland E	7.1	-0.1	1217.1	96	1313.2	111

Scotland W	8.1	0	1239.1	99	1917.1	107
Eng E & NE	8.8	-0.1	1420.3	100	1064	137
Eng NW & Wales N	8.8	-0.1	1305	97	1614.1	122
Midlands	9.4	-0.1	1439.2	100	1074.6	135
East Anglia	10.1	-0.1	1538.1	98	804.1	129
Eng SW & Wales S	9.8	-0.1	1457.3	96	1574	125
Eng SE & Central S	10.3	-0.1	1601.5	98	999.7	127

Date Created

January 2013

What is a Sudden Stratospheric Warming (SSW)?

Description

You may have heard talk of the UK possibly seeing some colder weather next week and that 'things going on' in the upper atmosphere may be playing a part.

The 'thing' happening in the atmosphere is known as Sudden Stratospheric Warming (SSW). When it does happen, it attracts a lot of interest in the UK because it is sometimes linked to the onset of cold weather in winter.

Here we shed a little bit more light on the phenomenon.

What is an SSW?

The term SSW refers to what we observe – rapid warming (up to about 50 °C in just a couple of days) in the stratosphere, between 10 km and 50 km up.

You may have heard of the [jet stream](#) which helps to steer Atlantic weather systems towards the UK. Well there are other jet streams high up in our atmosphere in both the northern and southern hemisphere which circumnavigate the Earth from west to east. One of these, the Polar Night Jet, circles the Arctic.

Sometimes the usual westerly flow can be disrupted by natural weather patterns or disturbances in the lower part of the atmosphere, such as a large area of high pressure in the northern hemisphere. This causes the Polar Jet to wobble and these wobbles, or waves, break just like waves on the beach. When they break they can be strong enough to weaken or even reverse the westerly winds and swing them to easterlies. As this happens, air in the stratosphere starts to collapse in to the polar cap and compress. As it compresses it warms, hence the stratospheric warming.

How does it move down through the atmosphere?

As it turns out, waves can only move around the Earth's atmosphere in westerly winds. Fluctuations in our weather send waves up through the atmosphere to the easterly winds in the stratosphere, where they travel no further, and instead break and reinforce the easterly winds, bringing the easterlies lower. This pattern continues until the easterlies have moved down to the troposphere – the lowest part of the atmosphere where our weather is.

It can take anything from a few days to a few weeks for this process to take place.

What impact does this have on the UK?

We normally expect our weather to come in from the west – with a flow of relatively mild air coming in off the Atlantic.

When an SSW brings easterly winds this tends to alter our weather patterns slightly, weakening areas

of low pressure and moving our jet stream further south. This leads to high pressure over the North Atlantic, 'blocking' that flow of mild Atlantic air and dragging in cold air from the continent to the east. Exactly how cold it might be depends on the details of where the air comes from.

SSWs don't always result in this outcome – but a cold snap follows more often than not, so the SSW greatly increases the risk of wintry weather.

Can we predict these events in advance?

Currently we can reliably predict individual SSWs about a week in advance, and we can detect them early on with satellite and other observations. This means we have some time to see how they develop and may impact our future weather.

The Met Office will continue to monitor the current event and, as ever, will keep everyone up to date on any periods of cold weather through our [forecasts](#) and [warnings](#).

Date Created

January 2013

Addressing the Daily Mail and James Delingpole's 'crazy climate change obsession' article

Description

An article by James Delingpole appears in the Daily Mail today under the headline ['The crazy climate change obsession that's made the Met Office a menace'](#).

This article contains a series of factual inaccuracies about the Met Office and its science, as outlined below.

Firstly, he claims the Met Office failed to predict snow in 2010, but our 5-day forecasts accurately forecast 12 out of 13 snowfall events – [as you can see in this article](#). In addition the [Press Complaints Commission](#) has also already addressed this fallacy with the Daily Telegraph in February of last year. As a result the newspaper published a clarification that highlighted that *"the Met Office did warn the public of last winter's [2010/11] cold weather from early November 2010."*

Mr Delingpole also says we failed to predict flooding in November last year. Once again, our 5-day forecasts gave accurate guidance and warnings throughout the period. In just one example of feedback the Met Office has received for highly accurate forecasting and guidance throughout 2012, Assistant Chief Constable Paul Netherton, Chair for the Local Resilience Forum for Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly (which was one of the areas most affected by flooding in November), said: *"[I] would like to formally thank and recognise the hard work of the Met Office over the past week. The information you provided was invaluable and enabled the responders in Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly to prepare and respond effectively to assist our communities."*

Mr Delingpole then inaccurately states that the Met Office has conceded 'there is no evidence that 'global warming' is happening'. We have not said this at any point.

In fact, we explicitly say this was not the case in an article, posted on the [home page](#) of our website and widely circulated, which was written in response to articles about updates to our decadal forecast. Professor Julia Slingo, Met Office Chief Scientist, has also provided a more in depth feature on ['Decadal Forecasting – What is it and what does it tell us?'](#).

Further on in the print version of the article (although amended online), Mr Delingpole says "According to the Met, Britain is apparently experiencing more rain by volume and intensity than at any time since records began." Although he is right in saying the Met Office has [published preliminary observations](#) which show an increase in the intensity and volume of rain, we are clear that this relates to a period from 1960 onwards – not 'since records began' as he claims.

He also states that the Met Office was trying to defend a narrative that the "the past ten years have been the 'wettest decade ever'". Again, this is not something the Met Office has ever said.

Also he quotes David Whitehouse of the [Global Warming Policy Foundation](#) saying that the Met Office 'thinks weather forecasting is beneath it' and that 'climate change... brings in more money'.

A cursory glance at our [annual report and accounts](#) (pdf) would reveal weather forecasting represents the vast majority of the Met Office's contractual work on behalf of the public.

There are also a number of other accusations which cannot be substantiated.

Mr Delingpole does quote Dr Whitehouse saying "when it comes to four or five day weather forecasting, the Met Office is the best in the world."

This supports the view of the [World Meteorological Organization](#) (WMO) which consistently ranks the Met Office in the top two operational forecasters in the world.

Our reputation for [forecasting accuracy](#) is based on our commitment to provide the world's best weather and climate service which helps protect lives and property here in the UK and around the world.

Date Created

January 2013

UK snow depths and overnight lows

Description

As [forecast](#), the east of the country saw snowfall yesterday and last night, with the heaviest snow falling in Suffolk, Norfolk and Cambridgeshire. Wattisham in Suffolk recorded the deepest snow, with 8 cm recorded at 9 am this morning.

Snow totals at 9 am this morning

Site Name	Area	Elevation	Snow Depth (cm)
Wattisham	Suffolk	89	8
Marham	Norfolk	21	8
Wittering	Cambridgeshire	73	5
Eskdalemuir	Dumfriesshire	236	4
Aviemore	Inverness-Shire	228	4
Aboyne No 2	Aberdeenshire	140	4
Waddington	Lincolnshire	68	4
Scampton	Lincolnshire	57	4
Nottingham, Watnall	Nottinghamshire	117	4
Bridlington Mrsc	Humberside	15	4
Coningsby	Lincolnshire	6	3
Leek, Thorncliffe	Staffordshire	298	3
Dyce	Aberdeenshire	65	3
Leconfield	Humberside	7	3
Cranwell	Lincolnshire	63	3
Boulmer	Northumberland	23	2
Loftus	Cleveland	158	2
Warcop Range	Cumbria	227	2
Andrewsfield	Essex	87	2

Temperatures also fell below freezing in many areas, although parts of the west of the country remained in single figures.

Lowest recorded overnight temperatures

Site Name	Area	Temperature (°C)
Altnaharra	Sutherland	-5.7
Sennybridge	Powys	-5.6
Leek, Thorncliffe	Staffordshire	-5.5
Marham	Norfolk	-5.5

Houghton Hall	Norfolk	-5.1
Kinbrace, Hatchery	Sutherland	-4.7
Libanus	Powys	-4.7
Braemar	Aberdeenshire	-4.6
Aboyne	Aberdeenshire	-4.5
Lossiemouth	Moray	-4
Trawsgoed	Dyfed	-3.9
Bainbridge	North Yorkshire	-3.8
High Mowthorpe	North Yorkshire	-3.8
Kinloss	Moray	-3.7
Bingley	West Yorkshire	-3.6
Market Bosworth Bosworth Park	Leicestershire	-3.6
Preston Moor Park	Lancashire	-3.5
Wattisham	Suffolk	-3.5
Eskdalemuir	Dumfriesshire	-3.4
Spadeadam	Cumbria	-3.4

The cold weather is set to continue for the remainder of the week, keep up to date with [your local forecast](#) for the latest update.

Date Created

January 2013

What to do when heavy snow is forecast

Description

Make sure you know what to do when severe weather warnings are in place for snow.

The first and most vital thing to do is check local and national weather forecasts and keep up to date with the latest warnings from the Met Office. [Check the latest forecast for your area on our severe weather page](#).

You can also sign up to our [severe weather RSS feed](#) or [severe weather twitter account](#) for your local area. Keep up to date on social media on our [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) pages.

For more information on our severe weather warnings service, [watch our video guide](#).

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Be

aware of the likely conditions and ensure you access the [latest weather forecast](#) for up to date weather information. Be aware that:

- There may be small amounts of snow lying on roads and pavements so slippery road surfaces are possible.
- Traffic may move generally slower than normal, and you may wish to allow extra time for your journey.
- You should take extra care when walking, cycling or driving in affected areas.

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During

amber warnings be prepared to change your plans. Take precautions where possible and ensure you access the [latest weather forecast](#). Be prepared for:

- More widespread snow lying on roads and pavements with a number of road closures.
- Localised disruption to road, rail and air transport with difficult driving conditions likely. Journeys through affected areas may take longer than usual.
- Taking extra care when walking, cycling or driving in affected areas.



During

red warnings [keep up to date with the forecast](#) and take action to protect yourself and your property. Take action so you are ready for:

- Widespread deep snow with many roads closed or impassable and a high risk of drivers becoming stranded.
- Significant disruption to road, rail and air transport.
- Risk to personal safety. You should avoid areas that are worst affected and are likely to pose additional risks.
- Significant disruption to normal day to day life as a result of transport issues and school closures.
- You should take the advice of local emergency services and local authorities in your area.

For advice on clearing snow and ice from the pavement outside your home or public spaces to prevent slips and falls read the [snow code](#).

Useful links:

[UK severe weather warnings](#)

[UK local forecasts](#)

[The snow code](#)

[Get ready for winter weather](#)

[UK snow](#)

[How does snow form?](#)

[Snow forecasting in the UK](#)

Date Created

January 2013

Heavy snow forecast for the UK

Description

A band of snow will push into the west into Friday morning with parts of Wales, the west of England and later Northern Ireland particularly at risk of heavy falls of snow and blizzard conditions in strong winds.

[Met Office severe weather warnings](#) have been issued for the heavy snow. A red warning has been issued for upland parts of southern Wales where accumulations of 10 to 15 cm are expected. Up to 30 cm is possible over the hills and blizzard conditions are likely.

An amber warning is in place for other parts of Wales, western England, the Midlands and central and southern England, as well as Northern Ireland where accumulations of 10 to 15 cm are expected and 20 cm or more over the hills.

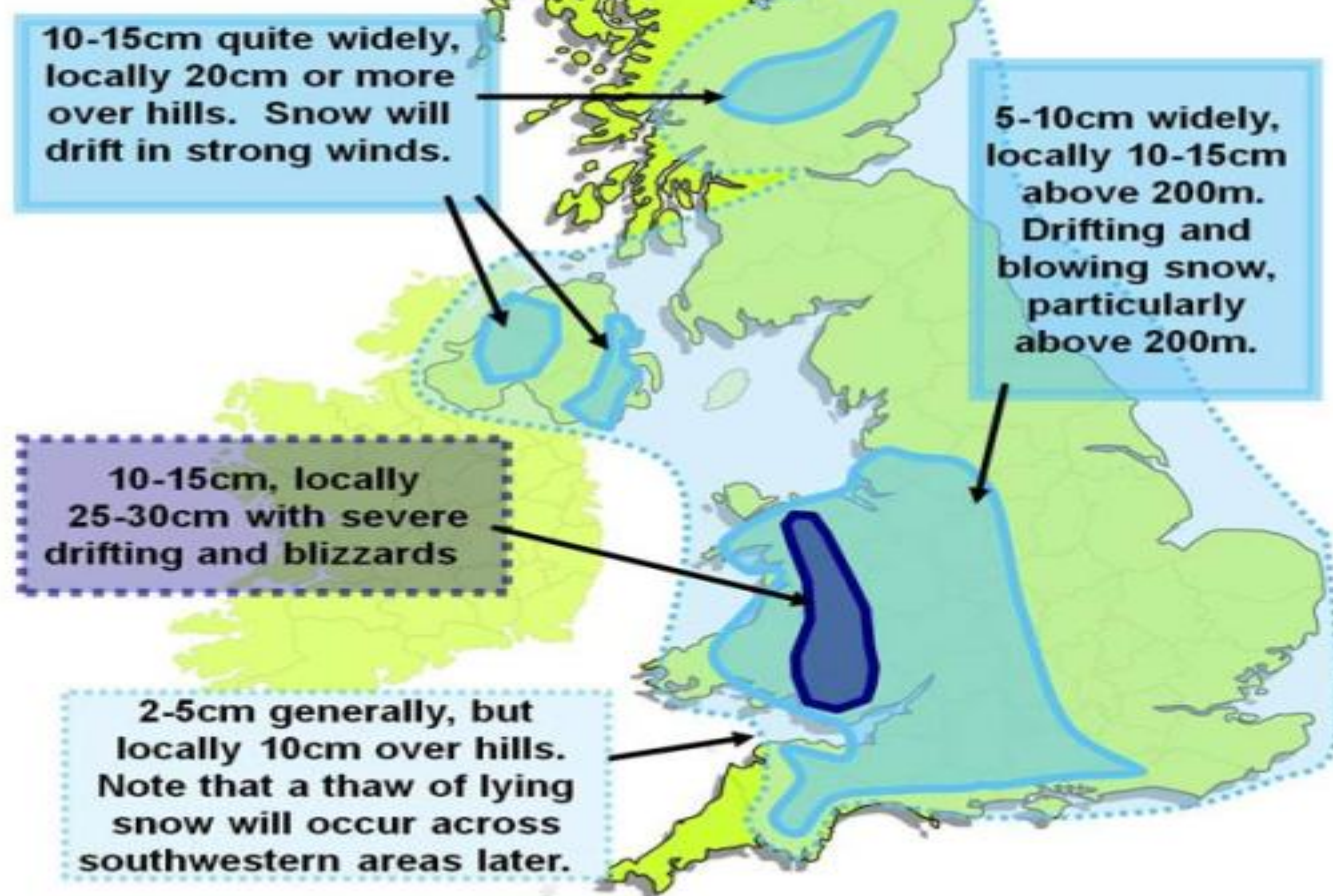
Met Office weather warnings help us all plan, prepare and protect ourselves and others from the impacts of severe weather. A red warning from the Met Office means that we need to take action to keep ourselves and others safe from the impacts of the weather. Widespread disruption to travel and other services is likely. All of us should consider changing our plans and avoiding dangerous areas.

Whilst snow will fall over most areas, the far west, including Cornwall and extreme western parts of Wales are expected to see the snow turning to rain, with the rain replacing snow across other parts of southwest England during the day.



Met Office

Expected fresh snow accumulation between 0300 on Friday 18th Jan and 0900 on Saturday 19th Jan 2013.



Andy Page, Met Office Chief Forecaster, said: "The snow is expected to be heaviest during Friday morning across Wales and the southern half of England."

"Clearly there is the potential for significant disruption to peoples plans. We should follow the advice of the emergency services and local authorities to help keep ourselves, our families and our communities safe in light of the forecast."

Darron Burness, head of the AA's severe weather team, said: "With the outlook remaining cold, drivers need to be prepared for possible disruption."

"Before heading out, check the Met Office weather alerts and traffic reports and allow a bit more time

for your journey, as you don't want to rush on potentially icy roads. Do the basic checks on your car and, in case of any problems, carry plenty of warm clothing, blankets, de-icer and scraper, some food, hot flask and a fully-charged mobile."

Steve Crosthwaite, head of the Highways Agency's National Traffic Operations Centre said: "We advise drivers to check road conditions and the Met Office weather forecast before they set off and during severe weather to consider whether their journey is essential. They may want to delay their travel until conditions improve and to allow our winter fleet the chance to treat the roads.

"Our traffic officers are working round the clock to monitor the network, deal with any incidents and keep traffic moving."

Over the weekend we will see less severe conditions but further outbreaks of rain, sleet and snow are possible in places. The snow that has fallen will be slow to melt and ice will continue to be a risk, especially at night.

By thinking ahead we can all be better prepared for severe weather. Throughout the winter, the Met Office works with agencies across the UK to help keep the country safe, well and on the move.

Related articles

- [What to do when heavy snow is forecast](http://metofficenews.wordpress.com) (metofficenews.wordpress.com)

Date Created

January 2013

Video forecast for heavy snow forecast for Friday

Description

A band of snow will push into the west into Friday morning with parts of Wales, the west of England and later Northern Ireland particularly at risk of heavy falls of snow and blizzard conditions in strong winds.

[Met Office severe weather warnings](#) have been issued for the heavy snow. A red warning has been issued for upland parts of southern Wales where accumulations of 10 to 15 cm are expected. Up to 30 cm is possible over the hills and blizzard conditions are likely.

An amber warning is in place for other parts of Wales, western England, the Midlands and central and southern England, as well as Northern Ireland where accumulations of 10 to 15 cm are expected and 20 cm or more over the hills.

Related articles

- [Heavy snow forecast for the UK](#) (metofficenews.wordpress.com)
- [What to do when heavy snow is forecast](#) (metofficenews.wordpress.com)
- [Snow forecast for much of the UK](#) (bbc.co.uk)
- [‘Rare’ red warning of heavy snow](#) (bbc.co.uk)
- [Weather Warning: Blizzards To Blanket Britain](#) (news.sky.com)
- [UK News: Warning over fresh snow disruption](#) (walesonline.co.uk)
- [Britain set for blanket of snow](#) (standard.co.uk)
- [Snow on the way with blizzard-like conditions to hit tomorrow’s rush hour](#) (itv.com)

Date Created

January 2013

Updated: Latest snow depths Friday 18 January

Description

As [forecast](#), many areas of the UK have had heavy snowfall today, particularly in Wales and the south and west of England.

The heaviest snowfall so far has been in Wales, where a [red warning](#) is currently in place. Sennybridge in Powys currently has the highest total, with 26 cm of snow recorded at 12 pm today.



Updated snow depths at 12 pm Friday 18 January

Location	Area	Elevation	Snow depth (Cm)
Sennybridge	Powys	307	26
Dunkeswell Aerodrome	Devon	252	15
Filton	Avon	59	12
Larkhill	Wiltshire	132	11
Liscombe	Somerset	348	11
Middle Wallop	Hampshire	90	11
Brize Norton	Oxfordshire	82	10
Leek, Thorncliffe	Staffordshire	298	9
Hereford, Credenhill	Hereford & Worcester	76	9
Hurn	Dorset	10	6
St Athan	South Glamorgan	49	6

Boscombe Down	Wiltshire	126	6
Northolt	Greater London	33	5
Coleshill	Warwickshire	96	5
Aviemore	Inverness-Shire	228	5
Boulmer	Northumberland	23	5
Trawsgoed	Dyfed	63	4
Marham	Norfolk	21	4
Shawbury	Shropshire	72	4
Scampton	Lincolnshire	57	4
Eskdalemuir	Dumfriesshire	236	4
Wattisham	Suffolk	89	4
Nottingham, Watnall	Nottinghamshire	117	4
Wittering	Cambridgeshire	73	3
Leconfield	Humberside	7	3
Cranwell	Lincolnshire	63	3
Dyce	Aberdeenshire	65	3
Bingley	West Yorkshire	262	3
Odiham	Hampshire	118	3
Bridlington Mrsc	Humberside	15	3
Heathrow	Greater London	25	2
Charlwood	Surrey	67	2
Andrewsfield	Essex	87	2
Benson	Oxfordshire	57	2
Coningsby	Lincolnshire	6	2
Church Fenton	North Yorkshire	8	2
Rostherne	Cheshire	35	2
Albemarle	Northumberland	142	2
Redesdale Camp	Northumberland	211	2
Aboyne	Aberdeenshire	140	2
Yeovilton	Somerset	20	1
Aberporth	Dyfed	133	1

Snow depths at 2 pm Friday 18 January

Location	Area	Elevation	Snow depth (Cm)
Sennybridge	Powys	307	25
Filton	Avon	59	15
Larkhill	Wiltshire	132	12
Liscombe	Somerset	348	12
Hereford, Credenhill	Hereford & Worcester	76	11
Middle Wallop	Hampshire	90	11
Brize Norton	Oxfordshire	82	11
Leek, Thorncliffe	Staffordshire	298	10
Coleshill	Warwickshire	96	7
Northolt	Greater London	33	7

Boscombe Down	Wiltshire	126	7
Shawbury	Shropshire	72	7
Hurn	Dorset	10	7
St Athan	South Glamorgan	49	5
Scampton	Lincolnshire	57	4
Nottingham, Watnall	Nottinghamshire	117	4
Eskdalemuir	Dumfriesshire	236	4
Marham	Norfolk	21	4
Yeovilton	Somerset	20	4
Heathrow	Greater London	25	4
Charlwood	Surrey	67	4
Odiham	Hampshire	118	4
Wattisham	Suffolk	89	4
Trawsgoed	Dyfed	63	4
Wittering	Cambridgeshire	73	4
Aboyne	Aberdeenshire	140	3
Leconfield	Humberside	7	3
Cranwell	Lincolnshire	63	3
Dyce	Aberdeenshire	65	3
Waddington	Lincolnshire	68	3
Boulmer	Northumberland	23	3
Leeming	North Yorkshire	33	3
Bingley	West Yorkshire	262	3
Bridlington Mrsc	Humberside	15	3
Benson	Oxfordshire	57	3
Andrewsfield	Essex	87	2
Church Fenton	North Yorkshire	8	2
Rostherne	Cheshire	35	2
Albemarle	Northumberland	142	2
Redesdale Camp	Northumberland	211	2
Coningsby	Lincolnshire	6	2
Bedford	Bedfordshire	85	2

Snow depths at 3 pm Friday 18 January

Location	Area	Elevation	Snow depth (Cm)
Sennybridge No 2	Powys	307	25
Filton	Avon	59	16
Dunkeswell Aerodrome	Devon	252	15
Larkhill	Wiltshire	132	12
Brize Norton	Oxfordshire	82	12
Liscombe	Somerset	348	12
Hereford, Credenhill	Hereford & Worcester	76	12
Middle Wallop	Hampshire	90	10
Leek, Thorncliffe	Staffordshire	298	9
Coleshill	Warwickshire	96	8
Northolt	Greater London	33	8

Boscombe Down	Wiltshire	126	7
Shawbury	Shropshire	72	7
Hurn	Dorset	10	7
Nottingham, Watnall	Nottinghamshire	117	6
Heathrow	Greater London	25	5
Marham	Norfolk	21	5
Odiham	Hampshire	118	5
Aviemore	Inverness-Shire	228	5
Cranwell	Lincolnshire	63	4
Eskdalemuir	Dumfriesshire	236	4
Scampton	Lincolnshire	57	4
Yeovilton	Somerset	20	4
Charlwood	Surrey	67	4
Wittering	Cambridgeshire	73	4
Wattisham	Suffolk	89	4
Trawsgoed	Dyfed	63	4
St Athan	South Glamorgan	49	4
Benson	Oxfordshire	57	3
Leeming	North Yorkshire	33	3
Lough Fea	Londonderry	225	3
Waddington	Lincolnshire	68	3
Bridlington Mrsc	Humberside	15	3
Leconfield	Humberside	7	3
Bedford	Bedfordshire	85	3
Aboyne No 2	Aberdeenshire	140	3
Dyce	Aberdeenshire	65	3
Bingley, No 2	West Yorkshire	262	3
Church Fenton	North Yorkshire	8	2
Coningsby	Lincolnshire	6	2
Andrewsfield	Essex	87	2
Rostherne No 2	Cheshire	35	2
Boulmer	Northumberland	23	2

Further snowfall is forecast today and tomorrow. Keep up to date with your local [forecasts](#) and [warnings](#) for the latest information.

Related articles

- [Heavy snow forecast for the UK](#) (metofficenews.wordpress.com)
- [What to do when heavy snow is forecast](#) (metofficenews.wordpress.com)

Date Created

January 2013

Overnight lows and the latest snow depths

Description

As forecast temperatures fell well below zero across the UK last night and the heaviest of the snow started to ease in most areas.

The lowest temperature recorded at a Met Office observing station was Edinburgh, Gogarbank, at -4.3 C and at 9am this morning the deepest snow cover was 27 cm at Lough Fea, Londonderry.

Lowest temperatures overnight 18 to 19 January 2013:

Location	Area	Temperature (Celsius)
Edinburgh Gogarbank	Midlothian	-4.3
Lake Vyrnwy	Powys	-4.3
Pennerley	Shropshire	-4.0
Tredegar Bryn Bach Park	Gwent	-3.5
Crosby	Merseyside	-3.4
Libanus	Powys	-3.4
Leek, Thorncliffe	Staffordshire	-3.3
Little Rissington	Gloucestershire	-3.3
Sennybridge	Powys	-3.2
Carterhouse	Roxburghshire	-3.1
Salsburgh	Lanarkshire	-3.1
Keele	Staffordshire	-3
Emley Moor	West Yorkshire	-2.9
Astwood Bank	Hereford & Worcester	-2.8
Winterbourne	West midlands	-2.8
Aviemore	Inverness-shire	-2.7
Bingley	West Yorkshire	-2.7
Liscombe	Somerset	-2.7
Pateley Bridge Ravens Nest	North Yorkshire	-2.7
Spadeadam	Cumbria	-2.7

Snow depths at 9am Saturday 19 January 2012:

Location	Area	Elevation	Snow depth (cm)
Lough Fea	Londonderry	225	27
Sennybridge	Powys	307	22
Little Rissington	Gloucestershire	210	20
Loftus	Cleveland	158	16
Liscombe	Somerset	348	16
Filton	Avon	59	16
Brize Norton	Oxfordshire	82	12
Hereford, Credenhill	Hereford & Worcester	76	11
Nottingham, Watnall	Nottinghamshire	117	11
Larkhill	Wiltshire	132	11
Albemarle	Northumberland	142	10
Cranwell	Lincolnshire	63	10
Benson	Oxfordshire	57	10
Leconfield	Humberside	7	10
Redesdale Camp	Northumberland	211	9
Middle Wallop	Hampshire	90	9
Boscombe Down	Wiltshire	126	8
Aboyne	Aberdeenshire	140	8
Wittering	Cambridgeshire	73	8
Coningsby	Lincolnshire	6	7
Leek, Thorncliffe	Staffordshire	298	7
Northolt	Greater London	33	7
Leeming	North Yorkshire	33	6
Marham	Norfolk	21	6
Shawbury	Shropshire	72	6
Bingley	West Yorkshire	262	6
Waddington	Lincolnshire	68	6
Odiham	Hampshire	118	6
Eskdalemuir	Dumfriesshire	236	5
Hurn	Dorset	10	5
Scampton	Lincolnshire	57	5
Charlwood	Surrey	67	5
Coleshill	Warwickshire	96	5
Wattisham	Suffolk	89	4
Boulmer	Northumberland	23	4
Dyce	Aberdeenshire	65	4
Bedford	Bedfordshire	85	3

Trawsgoed	Dyfed	63	3
Church Fenton	North Yorkshire	8	3
Linton on Ouse	North Yorkshire	14	3
Heathrow	Greater London	25	3
Edinburgh, Gogarbank	Midlothian	57	3
St Athan	South Glamorgan	49	3
Herstmonceux, West End	East Sussex	52	2

The cold weather is set to continue for the remainder of the weekend and ice is expected to be a major hazard, keep up to date with [your local forecast](#) for the latest update.

Date Created

January 2013

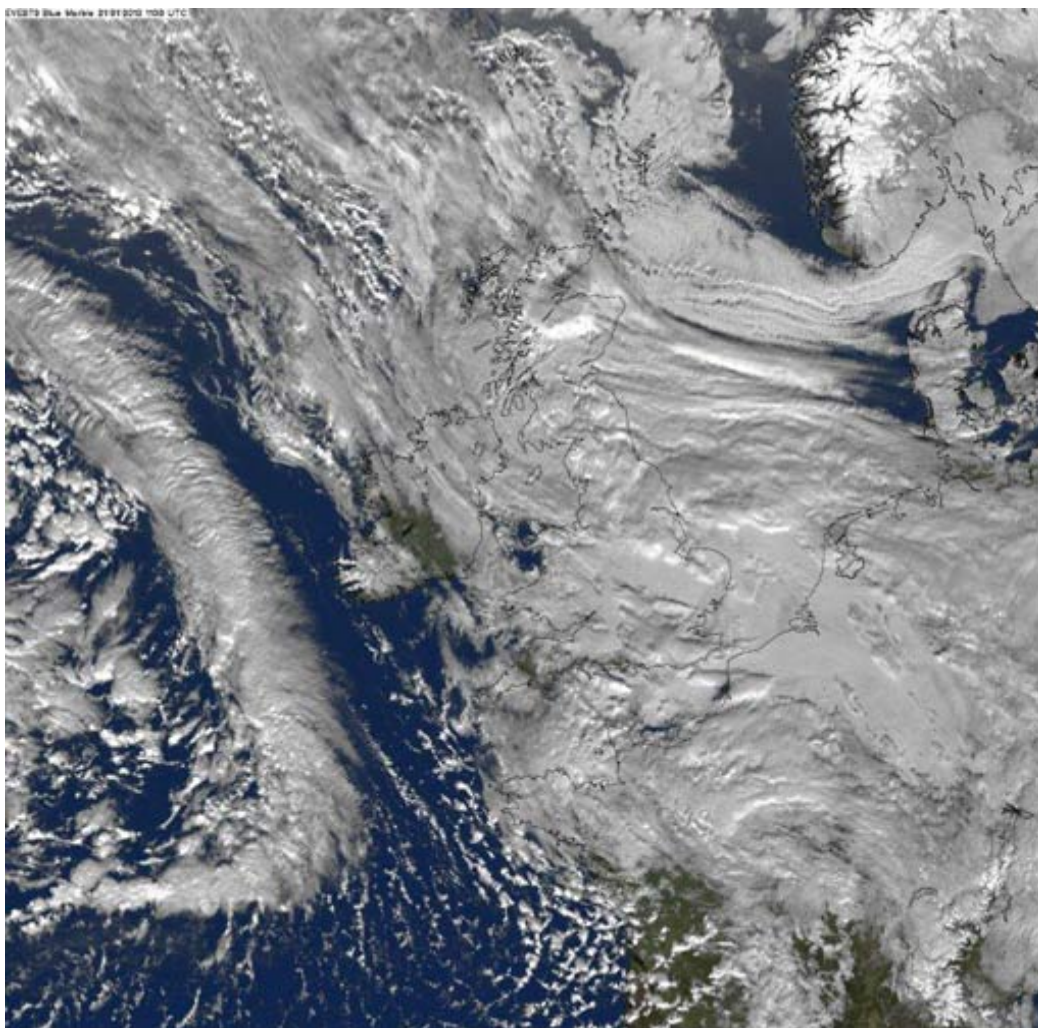
Latest UK snow depths Monday 21 January

Description

Following [further snow yesterday](#) in the central and eastern areas of the country, snow depths over the UK were as follows at 9 am this morning:

Location	Area	Elevation	Snow depth (cm)
Albemarle	Northumberland	142	19
Lough Fea	Londonderry	225	19
Sennybridge	Powys	307	18
Redesdale Camp	Northumberland	211	18
Little Rissington	Gloucestershire	210	17
Wittering	Cambridgeshire	73	16
Bingley	West Yorkshire	262	15
Waddington	Lincolnshire	68	13
Wattisham	Suffolk	89	13
Dunkeswell Aerodrome	Devon	252	13
Nottingham, Watnall	Nottinghamshire	117	12
Gutersloh	Germany	70	12
Cranwell	Lincolnshire	63	12
Coleshill	Warwickshire	96	12
Leek, Thorncliffe	Staffordshire	298	11
Liscombe	Somerset	348	11
Spadeadam	Cumbria	285	10
Filton	Avon	59	10
Middle Wallop	Hampshire	90	10
Aboyne	Aberdeenshire	140	10
Aviemore	Inverness-Shire	228	9
Eskdalemuir	Dumfriesshire	236	9
Marham	Norfolk	21	9
Coningsby	Lincolnshire	6	9
Larkhill	Wiltshire	132	8
Scampton	Lincolnshire	57	8
Brize Norton	Oxfordshire	82	8

Hereford, Credenhill	Hereford & Worcester	76	7
Valley	Gwynedd	10	7
Bedford	Bedfordshire	85	7
Shawbury	Shropshire	72	7
Charlwood	Surrey	67	6
Manston	Kent	49	6
Boscombe Down	Wiltshire	126	6
Northolt	Greater London	33	6
Glenanne	Armagh	161	5
Heathrow	Greater London	25	5
Herstmonceux, West End	East Sussex	52	5
Dyce	Aberdeenshire	65	4
Hurn	Dorset	10	4
Leeming	North Yorkshire	33	3
Linton On Ouse	North Yorkshire	14	3
Leconfield	Humberside	7	3
Shap	Cumbria	252	3
Hawarden Airport	Clwyd	11	3
Rostherne	Cheshire	35	3
Odiham	Hampshire	118	3
Benson	Oxfordshire	57	2
Strathallan Airfield	Perthshire	35	2
Drumalbin	Lanarkshire	245	2
St Athan	South Glamorgan	49	2
Camborne	Cornwall	86.85	1



Satellite image of the UK this morning, cloud is covering the UK which prevents us from seeing the areas covered by snowfall.

Further snow is forecast in some parts, and ice continues to be a hazard in areas that have already seen snow. Keep up to date with the latest [forecasts](#) and [warnings](#) for your area on our website.

Related articles

- [Overnight lows and the latest snow depths](#) (metofficenews.wordpress.com)
- [Latest snow depths Friday 18 January](#) (metofficenews.wordpress.com)
- [UK snow depths and overnight lows](#) (metofficenews.wordpress.com)

Date Created

January 2013

Overnight minimum temperatures

Description

Last night temperatures fell to as low as – 12.2 °C in Cambridge. This was close to the lowest recorded temperature of this winter so far, which was -13.4 °C, recorded in Marham, Norfolk on the 16 January.

Minimum temperatures Tuesday 22 January 2013

Location	Area	Temperature (°C)
Cambridge	Cambridgeshire	-12.2
Andrewsfield	Essex	-11.1
Cavendish	Suffolk	-10.6
Rothamsted	Hertfordshire	-10.4
Marham	Norfolk	-10.3
South Newington	Oxfordshire	-9.4
Houghton Hall	Norfolk	-9
Bedford	Bedfordshire	-8.9
Brooms Barn	Suffolk	-8.8
Charlwood	Surrey	-8.5
Northolt	Greater London	-8.4
Writtle	Essex	-8.4
Wisley	Surrey	-8.2
Santon Downham	Suffolk	-8.1
Monks Wood	Cambridgeshire	-8

Not everywhere was so cold, with some areas in the Scotland and the south of England and Wales staying above freezing.

Highest minimum temperatures Tuesday 22 January 2013

Location	Area	Temperature (°C)
Scilly St Marys Airport	Isles Of Scilly	4.7
Isle Of Portland	Dorset	3.7
Harris Quidnish	Western Isles	3.1
Achnagart	Ross & Cromarty	2.9
Swanage	Dorset	2.6
Stornoway Airport	Western Isles	2.4

Wight St Catherines Point	Isle Of Wight	2.4
Dunstaffnage	Argyll	2.3
Mumbles Head	West Glamorgan	2.3
South Uist Range	Western Isles	2.2

More very low temperatures are forecast over the next few nights, before it turns less cold and wetter over the weekend. See your [local forecast and temperature range](#) on our website.

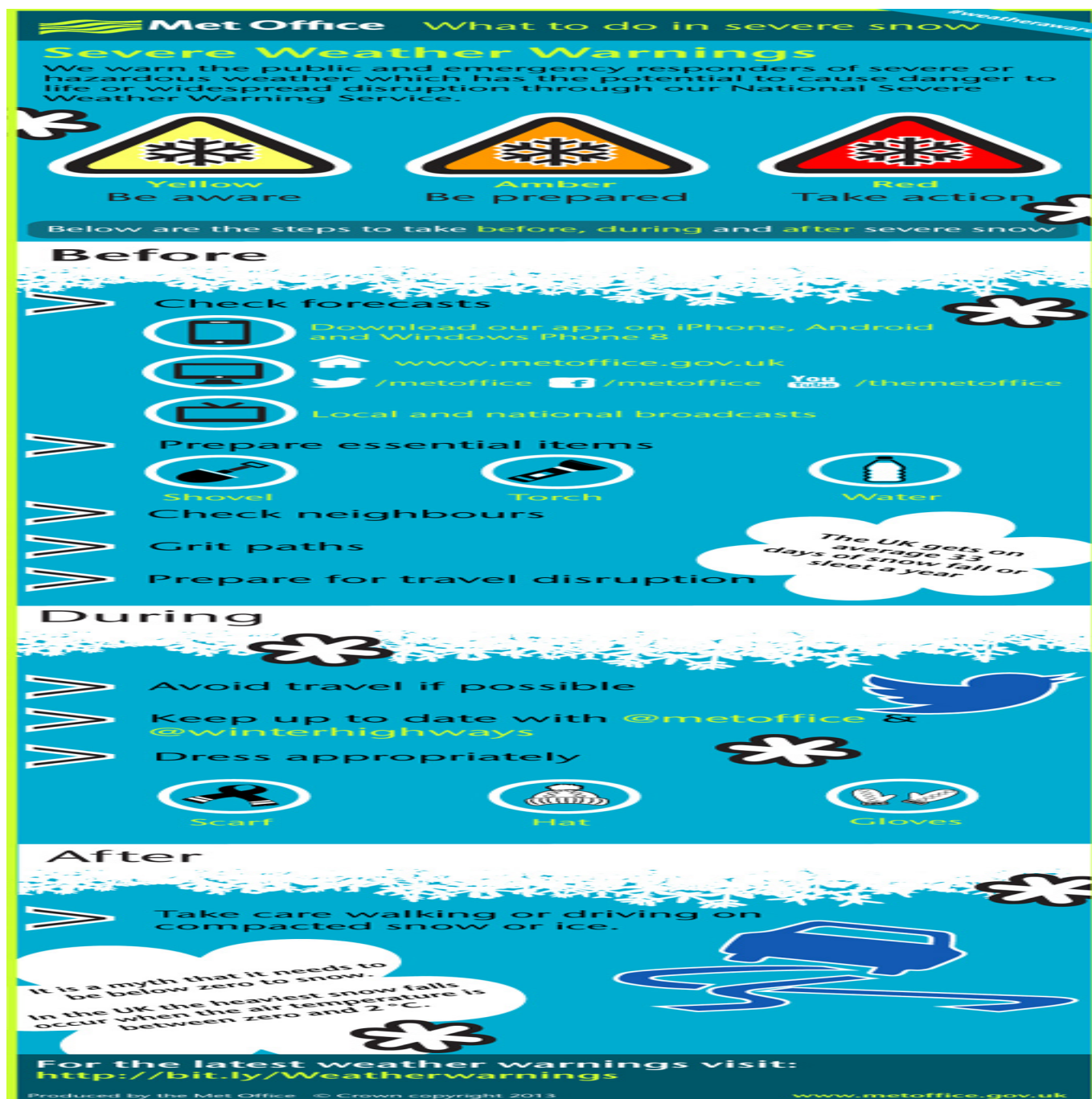
Date Created

January 2013

Infographic: what to do when it snows

Description

With [further warnings for snow in the UK](#) our latest infographic covers what to do before, during and after snow fall.



See our website for the [latest severe weather warnings](#). To find out more about when warnings are issued and what they mean see our [guide to warnings](#).

Related articles

- [What to do when heavy snow is forecast](#) (metofficenews.wordpress.com)
- [Snowfall in the UK](#) (metoffice.gov.uk)
- [Forecasting snow](#) (metoffice.gov.uk)
- [How is snow formed](#) (metoffice.gov.uk)

Date Created

January 2013

UK snow depths Wednesday 23 January

Description

Following further snow fall yesterday and overnight, the latest snow depth observations for the UK are below. Little Rissington in Gloucestershire has the highest snow depth so far this year with 30 cm recorded.

Location	Area	Elevation	Depth (cm)
Little Rissington	Gloucestershire	210	30
Aboyne	Aberdeenshire	140	27
Redesdale Camp	Northumberland	211	26
Albemarle	Northumberland	142	23
Spadeadam	Cumbria	285	21
Dunkeswell Aerodrome	Devon	252	21
Lough Fea	Londonderry	225	19
Loftus	Cleveland	158	18
Aviemore	Inverness-Shire	228	16
Eskdalemuir	Dumfriesshire	236	15
Bingley	West Yorkshire	262	13
Wittering	Cambridgeshire	73	11
Waddington	Lincolnshire	68	10
Leek, Thorncliffe	Staffordshire	298	9
Drumalbin	Lanarkshire	245	9
Wattisham	Suffolk	89	8
Coleshill	Warwickshire	96	8
Liscombe	Somerset	348	8
Brize Norton	Oxfordshire	82	8
Dyce	Aberdeenshire	65	8
Hereford, Credenhill	Hereford & Worcester	76	7
Nottingham, Watnall	Nottinghamshire	117	7
Odiham	Hampshire	118	7
Shawbury	Shropshire	72	7
Cranwell	Lincolnshire	63	7

Leeming	North Yorkshire	33	7
Altnaharra	Sutherland	81	6
Marham	Norfolk	21	6
Filton	Avon	59	5
Larkhill	Wiltshire	132	5
Scampton	Lincolnshire	57	5
Boscombe Down	Wiltshire	126	5
Middle Wallop	Hampshire	90	5
Bedford	Bedfordshire	85	5
Glenanne	Armagh	161	5
Kirkwall	Orkney	26	4
Coningsby	Lincolnshire	6	4
Benson	Oxfordshire	57	4
St Athan	South Glamorgan	49	3
Dishforth Airfield	North Yorkshire	33	3
Valley	Gwynedd	10	3
Leconfield	Humberside	7	3
Strathallan Airfield	Perthshire	35	3
Tulloch Bridge	Inverness-Shire	249	3
Charlwood	Surrey	67	2
Northolt	Greater London	33	2
Linton On Ouse	North Yorkshire	14	2
Hawarden Airport	Clwyd	11	2
Rostherne	Cheshire	35	2
Ballypatrick Forest	Antrim	156	2
Church Fenton	North Yorkshire	8	2

Further snowfall is forecast today and in the coming days, keep up to date with your local [forecasts](#) and [warnings](#) on our website.

Related articles

- [Overnight lows and the latest snow depths](#) (metofficenews.wordpress.com)
- [Infographic: what to do when it snows](#) (metofficenews.wordpress.com)
- [What to do when severe snow is forecast](#) (metofficenews.wordpress.com)

Date Created

January 2013

UK snow depths Saturday 26 January 2013

Description

As forecast, further snow fell across central, northern and eastern parts of the UK yesterday and overnight. The latest snow depth observations as of 0800 this morning for the UK are below. Redesdale Camp in Northumbria has the highest snow depth so far this year with 33 cm recorded.

Location	Area	Depth (cm)
Redesdale Camp	Northumberland	33
Eskdalemuir	Dumfriesshire	30
Albemarle	Northumberland	25
Spadeadam	Cumbria	25
Aboyne	Aberdeenshire	20
Bingley	West Yorkshire	20
Little Rissington	Gloucestershire	18
Leek, Thorncliffe	Staffordshire	16
Nottingham, Watnall	Nottinghamshire	12
Leconfield	Humberside	11
Strathallan Airfield	Perthshire	11
Church Fenton	North Yorkshire	11
Wittering	Cambridgeshire	10
Sennybridge	Powys	10
Andrewsfield	Essex	10
Dyce	Aberdeenshire	9
Cranwell	Lincolnshire	9
Linton On Ouse	North Yorkshire	8
Wattisham	Suffolk	8
Scampton	Lincolnshire	8
Marham	Norfolk	7
Shap	Cumbria	7
Leeming	North Yorkshire	7
Boulmer	Northumberland	6
Shawbury	Shropshire	5
Waddington	Lincolnshire	5
Rostherne	Cheshire	4

Bridlington MRSC	Humberside	4
Hawarden Airport	Clwyd	3
Glasgow, Bishopton	Renfrewshire	3
Coningsby	Lincolnshire	3
Bedford	Bedfordshire	3
Coleshill	Warwickshire	3
Liscombe	Somerset	2
Dunkeswell Aerodrome	Devon	2
Drumalbin	Lanarkshire	2
Hereford, Credenhill	Hereford & Worcester	2
Prestwick, Gannet	Ayrshire	2
Odiham	Hampshire	1

As we continue through the weekend all of us will see a change to milder and unsettled conditions, with further rain, heavy at times pushing east across the UK later on Saturday and into Sunday. A [yellow warning of heavy rain](#) has been issued for parts of the UK overnight tonight

The change to milder weather will result in a combination of a thaw of lying snow and periods of rain which inevitably increases the risk of flooding in some areas. The [Met Office](#) and [Environment Agency](#) are monitoring the situation very closely and advise everyone to stay up to date with the latest weather forecasts, [severe weather warnings](#), and [flood warnings](#).

By thinking ahead we can all be better prepared for severe weather. Throughout the winter, the Met Office [works with agencies](#) across the UK to help keep the country safe, well and on the move.

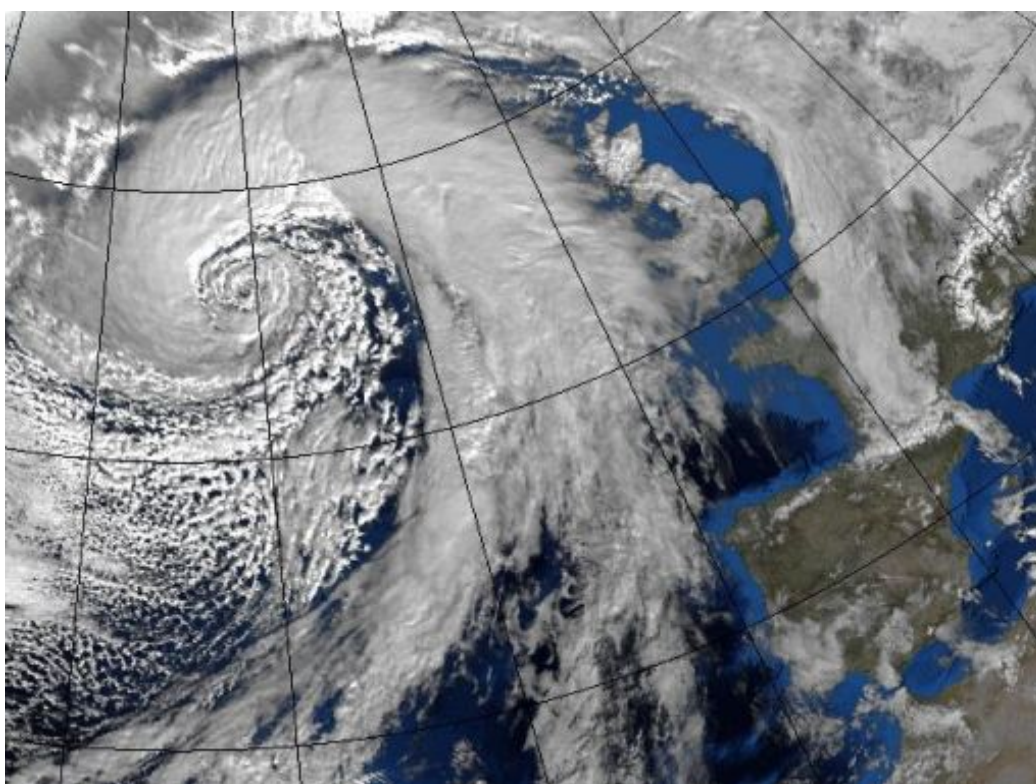
Date Created

January 2013

The worst storm in years?

Description

Various articles in the news today said that the weather over the weekend was the worst storm to hit the UK in years, and that there is more to come this week. There was indeed a very deep area of low pressure in the Atlantic over the weekend. At its deepest, on Saturday 26 January, the central pressure of the depression was 932 millibars and it was sitting some 1,800 nautical miles west of the UK. It came closest to the UK during the day yesterday with a central pressure of 950 millibars but was still around 600 nautical miles to the north west of Scotland.



Satellite image from 26 January 2013

To put this into context, [the storm that affected the UK on 3 January 2012](#) had a central pressure of 953 millibars but was centred right on the west coast of Scotland and brought winds in excess of 80 mph to the Central Belt and a gust of over 100 mph in Edinburgh. Property was damaged, as well as trees, and there was disruption on the road network and with ferry crossings. Power supplies were also affected significantly.

The storm in January 2012 was therefore much more disruptive and severe than any wet and windy weather we have seen so far this year.

Much of the recent severe weather has been attributed to the phrase “Weather Bomb”, which is not a perfect meteorological term but is defined as an intense low pressure system with a central pressure that falls 24 millibars in a 24-hour period. This happened to the depression over the Atlantic during the

weekend but as it was miles away from the UK its impacts were minimal. A better description can be more directly linked to the meteorological phenomena known as rapid cyclogenesis. This is where dry air from the stratosphere flows into an area of low pressure. This causes air within the depression to rise very quickly and increases its rotation, which in turn deepens the pressure and creates a more vigorous storm.

Date Created

January 2013

Overnight wind speeds – Wednesday 30 January

Description

Following Met Office amber weather warnings for wind in some parts of the UK yesterday, some high gust speeds were recorded late last night and into the early hours of the morning. The highest gust speed at lower levels was recorded at Fair Isle, Shetland which saw speeds of 86 mph this morning, while the highest gust recorded at a mountain site was 135 mph at Cairngorm Summit.

Max gust speed at lower level sites

Date/time	Site name	Area	Elevation	Max Gust Speed (mph)
30/01/2013 06:00	Fair Isle	Shetland	57	86
30/01/2013 05:00	Lerwick	Shetland	82	84
30/01/2013 07:00	Kirkwall	Orkney	26	82
30/01/2013 01:00	Loch Glascarnoch	Ross & Comarty	269	79
30/01/2013 01:00	Stornoway Airport	Western Isles	15	78
30/01/2013 04:00	Wick Airport	Caithness	36	75
30/01/2013 00:00	South Uist Range	Western Isles	4	75
30/01/2013 00:00	Tain Range	Ross & Cromarty	4	70
30/01/2013 05:00	Altnaharra	Sutherland	81	68
30/01/2013 03:00	Wight: Needles Old Battery	Isle Of Wight	80	68

Max gust speed recorded at mountain sites

Date/time	Site name	Area	Elevation	Max gust speed (mph)
30/01/2013 00:00	Cairngorm Summit	Invernessshire	1237	135
30/01/2013 01:00	Aonach Mor	Invernessshire	1130	110
30/01/2013 07:00	Cairnwell	Aberdeenshire	928	105
30/01/2013 00:00	Bealach Na Ba	Ross & Cromarty	773	101

30/01/2013 02:00	Glen Ogle	Perthshire	564	77
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Warnings remain in place for wind in some areas, you can keep up to date with the latest [severe weather warnings](#) on our website.

Date Created

January 2013

Guest blog: Commemorating the 60th anniversary of the 1953 floods

Description

Craig Woolhouse is Head of Flood Incident Management at the [Environment Agency](#). He looks at how flood risk management has progressed since 1953 and how you can keep flood aware.



Today marks the 60th anniversary of the 1953 floods where over 300 people died, 24,500 houses were damaged and over 30,000 people were evacuated. Outside the towns and villages, thousands of animals were drowned and great tracts of farmland were made infertile by salt water. This was one of the worst peace time calamities to hit Britain with Winston Churchill declaring it a “National Disaster”.

Those affected by the floods would have gone to bed without a flood warning and many of the flood defences today along the east coast, including London’s Thames Barrier, didn’t exist at all.

We’re lucky enough to have a lot more tools at our disposal to keep flood aware and safe these days. For example, you can join the 1.2 million people in England and Wales already signed up for [free flood warnings](#). Where there was major loss of life in 1953, major flood defences have been built – for example Canvey Island, Jaywick, Felixstowe, Lincolnshire, Kings Lynn and Great Yarmouth. The Thames Barrier, celebrating its 30th birthday tomorrow as one of the world’s largest moveable defences, was also constructed as a result of the 1953 floods.

There have also been massive improvements in long range flood forecasting since 1953 like the joint Environment Agency and Met Office flood forecasting centre which provides 24/7 flood guidance to

emergency services and local authorities.

We're much better prepared than in 1953 but we cannot afford to be complacent. Despite the low probability, extreme floods like 1953 could strike at any time and we need to be prepared as a country and as communities for when these happen.

Visit the Environment Agency website to see what you can do to stay [flood aware](#).

You can [find out more about how weather and flood forecasting has improved](#) on our website.

Date Created

January 2013